

**PAUL Birdseye, Wycombe Wanderers' right back, looks likely to miss the Blues' vital trip to Goole in the second round of the F.A. Trophy tomorrow (Saturday).**

Birdseye has been laid low all week with influenza and missed Tuesday night's training session. On Wednesday manager John Reardon said the full back's chances of playing were 70-30 against and he added that Paul would definitely not play if he was unable to attend last night's (Thursday's) training.

If Birdseye does not recover in time, it is almost certain that young Richard Strong will be thrown in at the deep end for his first major game. Strong, who was with Flackwell Heath earlier in the season, has played only a handful of mid-week matches for the Blues, mostly at centre back.

It would be an extremely testing baptism for the tall defender but Richard has already demonstrated his defensive qualities. No-one,

however, could expect him to match Birdseye's attacking skills on the right flank. His overlapping is a major phase of Wycombe's play and will be sadly missed.

Manager Reardon's only other selection problem is up front, where he must choose between Derek Harris and Dylan Evans. He will make a late decision, with one of them ending up as substitute.

There's not much doubt that tomorrow's outing will prove one of Wycombe's toughest tests of the season. Northern Premier League clubs always provide stern opposition and Goole will be no exception.

Wycombe's manager watched them beat Workington 3-0 last Saturday in a league game and told me: "I was very impressed. They are a footballing side which works as a team and there were few weaknesses there. Goole play a similar style to us, tending to play a short game and building from midfield."

But although John respects the opposition he also says: "If we can play as we did for the first 20 minutes in the last round at Bridgend — and score — we must be in with a chance. I think we'll give them a few problems but we must keep our work rate."

**EXTROVERT**  
Goole's strength would appear to be up front where extrovert Charlie Green — the home crowd's favourite — and Mally Thompson have bagged

47 goals between them this season. Green is the league's top marksman. A supply of left footed crosses come from the balding Tony Taylor.

At least Wanderers do not have to face Tony Galvin, who signed from Goole to Tottenham in a £10,000 deal last week.

Goole's victory over Workington last weekend gave them a boost in confidence after some recent indifferent displays and because it was the first game they had played since transferring midfielder player Galvin.

Galvin operated on Goole's right flank and he was rated as one of the best players in the Northern Premier League. But Goole didn't seem to miss him against Workington. They switched Trevor Whiteley, a left-sided player, to the right and the move was so successful that Whiteley made two of Goole's goals and scored the third himself.

Whiteley's display made manager Alan Turner a lot more confident about beating Wycombe.

**HARD GAME**  
"I have a contact at Wycombe and he has given me a detailed run-down on their team", he said this week. "They sound a good side and I expect them to give us a hard game. But we have ground advantage and that should help us to progress to the next round. It should be a good game to watch because we are

rated as one of the best footballing sides in the NPL and I understand Wycombe also play good football".

In the earlier rounds, Goole beat New Brighton away 2-0 and Tow Law at home 3-1.

Goole are likely to line up as follows: White; Jackson, Williams; Wilson, Jennings, Sellers, Whiteley, Walton, Green, Thompson, Taylor, Sub Kelly.

The midfield battle is likely to be fairly even while Goole's weakness could be in defence. They have conceded 40 goals in 27 league matches and are reported to be slow to turn at the back. If this is the case Wycombe will look to the speed of Mick Holifield and Harris to provide the openings and goals.

Wanderers' last visit up North was last season at Runcorn at the same stage of the competition. They scored first but went down 2-1. Runcorn's league record was superior to Goole's this season and the latter's 12 defeats in the NPL suggests inconsistency.

There has been a tendency to write off the chances of Southern clubs against their Northern counterparts in the past. But tomorrow there seems no reason why Wanderers should not have the confidence and ability to get through to the third round for the first time.

Whatever the standard of opposition and no matter how skilful their players, if Wycombe play to their full potential and take their chances, it should be enough.

## PREVIEW BY STUART EARP

WYCOMBE Wanderers' visit to Slough Town in the quarter-final of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup, postponed last week because of frost, became another victim of the weather on Saturday.

The match was called off early on Saturday morning after becoming one of the many victims of Friday night's torrential rain which washed out the vast majority of local games. The early decision at least averted last week's inconvenience when many Wycombe supporters made the journey to Wexham Park only to find the game called off.

Even so, this was Wycombe's second successive Saturday out of action while Slough are still waiting to replay their match in the F.A. Trophy against Maidstone. Thursday's venue at Sutton was unfit and they were hoping to play last night (Monday).

A provisional date for the Senior Cup tie has been agreed between the two clubs for next Tuesday (February 7) but this depends on how both Wycombe and Slough fare in Saturday's F.A. Trophy ties. Should either of them draw, they will have to replay on February 7, thereby causing a third postponement.

At least some of the Senior Cup tie were played on Saturday. Chalfont St. Peter thrashed Amersham 4-0 at Spratley's Meadow while Chesham piped Didcot 2-1. Chesham are at home to the winners of the Slough v Wycombe game in the semi-final.

In the meantime Wycombe are preparing this week for Saturday's long trip to Goole Town in the F.A. Trophy second round. The Blues will be training tonight (Tuesday) and Thursday.

Manager John Reardon travelled up to watch the opposition on Saturday and saw Goole beat Workington Town 3-0 at home. John was impressed. "Goole are a footballing side and like to attack. Their victory was a good all round team effort and they showed no apparent weaknesses," he said.

"The pitch, which is very large, was in excellent condition before the game but cut up rather badly. I don't think our supporters will like it much because it is surrounded by a track."

Goole's goals came from left back Dave Williams, Mally Thompson and Trevor Whiteley. The latter was involved in the two other scores.

Goole, incidentally, were without Tony Galvin. He signed for Tottenham Hotspur in a £10,000 deal and will therefore not play against Wycombe. Sheffield United, Bolton and Notts Forest were also chasing Galvin.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION (Up to and Inc. 30/1/78)										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Enfield	26	21	4	1	62	18	67			
Wycombe	26	17	2	7	48	28	53			
Leatherhead	26	14	7	5	46	23	49			
Hitchin	26	13	7	6	43	30	46			
Dagenham	27	13	8	6	50	40	46			
Carsheaton	26	12	8	6	46	38	44			
Tooting	26	12	8	6	40	35	44			
Croydon	26	12	6	8	41	34	42			
Hayes	26	12	6	10	36	37	42			
Hendon	26	11	6	11	40	37	39			
Sutton	24	11	5	8	32	34	38			
Staines	25	10	8	7	32	35	38			
Barking	27	10	4	13	43	45	34			
Walthamstow	22	8	7	7	34	34	31			
Boreham W.	26	8	6	12	35	45	30			
Slough	26	8	5	13	34	45	29			
Kingstonian	26	6	7	15	29	41	25			
Tilbury	24	5	8	11	33	41	23			
Woking	22	6	3	13	34	41	21			
Southall	26	4	9	13	28	48	21			
Leytonstone	30	3	11	16	30	55	20			
Stortford	27	3	6	18	28	60	15			

## Train tickets

TICKETS for the train organised by Wycombe Wanderers Supporters' Club for Saturday's F.A. Trophy game at Goole are on sale tonight (Tuesday) and on Thursday in the clubroom at Loakes Park.

The tickets, priced £4, are available from 7-9 p.m.

The train leaves High Wycombe station on Saturday morning at 9.08 a.m. and arrives in Goole at 1.15 p.m. The return train leaves Goole at 6 p.m. arriving back at 10.11 p.m.

## Stand tickets

FIFTY stand tickets for Wycombe's game at Goole in the F.A. Trophy on Saturday, go on sale tonight (Tuesday) in the clubroom at Loakes Park between 7-9 p.m. The tickets cost 60p. Any remaining stand tickets will be sold on the train on Saturday morning.